

REMARKS

The Official Action of July 2, 2003 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The indication that claims 1-7 are allowed and that claims 9-11, 16-17, 19-20 and 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims has been noted with appreciation.

Claims 14-24 have now been canceled to render the rejection of claims 15 and 18 moot, and to clear the way for the addition of new claims 25-27. The number of claims now on file is fewer than the number of claims previously. Support for the recitations in claims 25-27 appears in the specification as filed at page 13, lines 33-35, and page 14, lines 15-17.

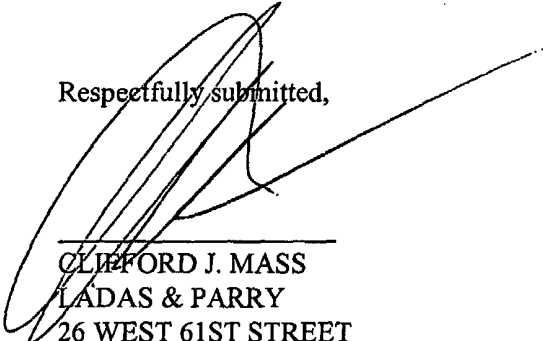
Claim 8 has been amended to tie the acid to the function which it performs, as expressly permitted in MPEP Section 2173.05(g). The functional limitation in claim 8 limits the recited acid to one that lowers the pH to convert the lithium salt of the polyuronic acid into the free form of the acid. One of skill in the art can readily determine whether a particular acid would satisfy the claim limitation without undue experimentation, which is all that is required to satisfy the enablement provisions of 35 USC 112, first paragraph (see MPEP Section 2164.01). This is especially true in

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view of the guidance provided by the specification at, for example, page 13, line 30 to page 14, line 25; the presence of the working examples in the specification; and the fact that one of skill in the art could **routinely** test any acid to determine whether it would perform the recited function. In other words, the specification is enabling for the invention defined by claim 8 under any interpretation of the factors set forth in *In re Wands*, as reproduced in MPEP Section 2164.01(a).

In view of the above, all rejections and objections of record are believed to have been successfully traversed and the application is believed to be in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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